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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT 2005/08/03 : CIA-RDP80B01139A000100020028-1

Memorandum

TO : COINS PROJECT MANAGER

Serial: COINS/049
DATE: 11 February 1969

FROM : NSA COINS Sub-System Manager

SUBJECT: COINS Objective

Reference: COINS/043, 31 January 1969

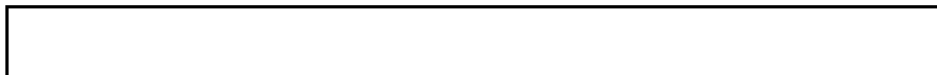
In Response to paragraph 3 of the reference the attached is submitted.



NSA COINS SUB-SYSTEM MANAGER

cc: ADP
Chief, C
C03

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GROUP-1
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1. Objective:

Design, develop, and implement a system for the COINS Experiment which will produce the necessary data to test the feasibility and permit and evaluate the utility of an inter-connected computer based information system with remote access capability. A design objective will be to provide an average response time of fifteen minutes or less to all interrogations.

2. How is the Achievement of the Objective to be Identified and Measured in Some Tangible Form?

Tangible evidence of achievement of the objective is, first, the procurement and installation of hardware in support of the objective. Secondly, the design and preparation of attendant software to satisfy the stated requirements of the experiment is also substantial evidence of achievement.

How do you measure the implementation of these two factors is not the experiment. How do you measure its use?

3. What Constitutes Success or Failure of the Objective?

a. Success or failure of the objective will depend, first on the technical capability of the system to operate. Since such interconnection among computers is being accomplished through communications lines and a computer-based communication switch, this at least denotes a measure of success in the employment of hardware.

b. Success in terms of user performance is capable of being identified initially in terms of just getting through the system. A DIA query to CIA which is responded to properly. This could be an error message but a valid message nonetheless since it would have been received in response to a query. The method by which this is done may be somewhat cumbersome and ineffective at the present time. More effective techniques may be capable of being achieved during the experimental phase such that the method of query is simplified and the scope of data that may be obtained is expanded. In either case the number of responses can be tallied and are quantitative reflections of both the activity of the system and the users' participating in the system.

c. Less easy to evaluate are the qualitative judgements of the users as to the effectiveness of the system, the pertinence of the data available, or the use which is made of the data. Presumably, after a period of time, increased outputs either in the form of finished reports, improved files, and/or enhanced validity of data elements could be counted and attributed to the system. However, the basis for a determination of this kind



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d. Nor is it likely that such definition could or should be attempted until the system has operated for a sustained period of time. The system may have considerable impact on traditional intelligence production methodology regardless of the efficiency of the system in its early stages. But for this phenomenon to be obvious a considerable history of completed interrogations will have to have been accumulated.

e. Failure to achieve a 15 min average response time. When?

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